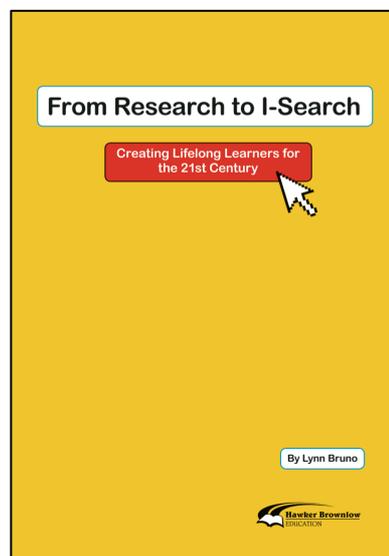


From Research to I-Search: Creating Lifelong Learners for the 21st Century

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Key Learning Area: Cross-Curricular



Summary

The ability to conduct research with fidelity is undeniably a life skill that not only benefits students when working for an academic grade, but in everyday decisions of varying degrees of importance. From something minor like choosing a new recipe for the evening's meal to more critical and life determining decisions such as committing to a lifelong relationship, the ability to conduct reliable and purposeful research is an essential life skill upon which happiness is closely linked.

The I-Search process differs from traditional research in that it focuses as much on the process as the product of research. I-Search requires the researcher to identify what they already know about the topic, what questions they would like answered, what knowledge others hold on the topic and how that new knowledge has enriched and changed their understanding of the topic. I-Search:

- relates to all content areas
- gives students practice in 21st century skills and lifelong learning
- allows struggling students to practise research skills
- guides students in learning which questions are important to raise
- provides flexibility for teams to collaborate on researching
- provides authentic learning as students work on questions important to them
- reinforces CCSS-related skills
- helps students identify values and biases and consider alternative points of view.

Other Resources

- *Teaching & Assessing 21st Century Skills: The Classroom Strategies Series* (MRL2325)
- *The Focus Factor: 8 Essential Twenty-First Century Skills for Deeper Student Learning* (TCP0621)
- *Ready, Set, Learn: Integrating Powerful Learning Skills and Strategies into Daily Instruction* (PBP6272)